

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Speech by Miha Marinko

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A meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovenia took place in Ljubljana on 6 December 1947 presided over by Miha Marinko, the General Secretary, who delivered a long speech. Following are some of the main points of his address.

1. "The Communist Party", Marinko said, "neither counts on nor asks for the love of the people. Only reactionary Western demagogues of social democratic persuasion made a fetish of the love of the people. The Communist, on the other hand, realizes that a Communist society can only be brought about against the will of the majority of the people. All that a Communist need ask himself is whether his work is helping to achieve the aims of the Party, not whether his work is helping to achieve the aims of the Party, not whether it meets with the approval of the people. The Communist Party seeks the love of the people only when it is struggling for power, not once it has achieved it, and if the Communist Party wishes to achieve its aims it must not ask itself whether the people are in agreement. The people cannot understand the long term aims of the Party; still less can they understand that in order to achieve these aims great sacrifices over an extended period are necessary. Only the new generation, the new men, the men of the future, who have been brought up in Communism, can understand and find agreement with the Party. Hence during the process of implementing the aims of the Party one must not ask whether these aims meet with the approval of the masses. The Communist regime is the dictatorship of the vanguard and elite of the Communist Party and in order to maintain this dictatorship it is necessary to drive the people psychologically into a state of complete submission. This is precisely the function of the local functionary of the Party. Should, however, the people not respond to these psychological measures, then other methods must be found to instill discipline."

2. Marinko made the following points concerning finances:

- (a) He demanded a radical revision of the whole system of taxation. Higher taxes on private economic interests would yield not only greater revenue but would also force the liquidation of private capital assets - which in turn would react to the advantage of socialization. Illustrative of the decline in revenue in Slovenia are the revenue figures for October and November 1947. In

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October Ljubljana paid 236,000,000 dinars in taxes and in November only 147,000,000 dinars.

- (b) He stated that the Government had given orders for the outright seizure of certain properties.
- (c) Production in the mines and in industry had not come up to expectations. Some enterprises had not reached the targets laid down for them in the Five Year Plan, and others had only exceeded their targets by a narrow margin. In this connection the Government has already prepared the necessary orders to remedy the situation.

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